Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101427 ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSSTEVEN APPROVED BY ARA:FJMCNEIL ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY ARA/PPC/P:JDIETERICH

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O 202342Z APR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 101427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS STATEMNT ON GOC AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING STATEMENT

CONCERNING AMNESTY AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 20:

QUOTE...WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF THE AMNESTY AND HAVE OUR
EMBASSY'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE. IT

EMBASSY'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMNESTY GOES WELL BEYOND RECENT PUBLIC INDICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS. THE AMNESTY APPEARS TO HAVE A BROAD AND FAVORABLE IMPACT UPON THOSE POLITICAL PRISONERS REMAINING IN CHILE AND UPON MANY THOUSANDS OF CHILEAN EXILES ABROAD.

THE AMNESTY IS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY. WE EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT CHILE IS STARTING UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE PATH TOWARD RESTORATION OF A SYSTEM OF OPEN AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE MUCH-ADMIRED CHILEAN DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. END QUOTE.

2. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED FOR DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT U.S. - GOC RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF SUCH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AS AMNESTY, TOWNLEY EXPULSION, ETC. QUESTION WAS TAKEN

BY SPOKESMAN.	WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT, IF ANY, RESPONSE
TO MAKE. CHRIST	TOPHER

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Message Attributes

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